



## *Report to the Auburn City Council*

Action Item

Agenda Item No. **4**

City Manager Approval

**To:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**From:** John Ruffcorn, Chief of Police  
**Date:** February 27, 2012  
**Subject:** Acceptance of Homeland Security Grant Funds

### **The Issue**

Should the City Council approve the acceptance of \$11,000.00 of grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), issued through the State Office of Emergency Services, for the purpose of purchasing of eight narrowband radios with internal scanners?

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Based on our research, Staff is recommending that the City Council accept the money and authorize the purchase of eight narrowband radios with internal scanners.

### **Background**

The Auburn Police Department is continually working to improve the safety, operations and efficiencies of patrol services, while utilizing technology to enhance safety and improve operational effectiveness. The radios that are being requested provide the City the opportunity to purchase, with funding available from a DHS grant, radios that meet narrowband federal requirements that have to be in place by January 1, 2013.

All existing Part 90 radio systems operating on frequencies between 150-512 MHz have to convert those systems either to 12.5 kHz bandwidth or to a technology that provides one voice path per 12.5 kHz of bandwidth or provides a data rate of 4800 bps/6.25 kHz. The deadline is not expected to be extended any further by the FCC, having done so once already. Public safety radio licenses will be required to certify to the commission that they have made the technical necessary changes and are using narrowband equipment. Licensees that do not meet this deadline will be cancelled by the FCC and relicensing of cancelled systems will become very difficult.

An analysis of our current radio system was completed in November 2011 by one of our volunteers with expertise in radio systems. Based on the new requirements and his analysis of our existing radio system, it was determined that we needed to purchase sixteen mobile radios and several other pieces of necessary equipment (repeater, two bases stations, and software). The total cost of the project for us to achieve FCC compliance is \$40,000.00.

With this in mind, we are asking you to approve this purchase knowing that the County Board of Supervisors approved \$11,000.00 for the city of Auburn to purchase radios with scanners in the 2009 DHS grant, and the majority of the monies spent to achieve this purchase will be reimbursed.

**Alternatives Available to Council; Implications of Alternatives**

1. Proceed with Staff Recommendation
2. Do not proceed with staff recommendation

**Fiscal Impact**

The costs of this initial project will be reimbursed from the Department of Homeland Security Grant Program (\$11,000.00) after the purchase of the requested equipment. Each radio costs \$1,500.00, so we are requesting to purchase eight radios and use current Jag/Byrne grant monies for the additional \$1000.00.

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RESOLUTION NO. 12-  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

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THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:

That the City Council of the City of Auburn does hereby support the acceptance  
of grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security, issued through the  
State Office of Emergency Services, for the purpose of purchasing of eight  
narrowband radios with internal scanners.

DATED: February 27, 2012

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Keith Nesbitt, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk

I, Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk of the City of Auburn, hereby certify  
that the foregoing resolution was duly passed at a regular meeting of the City  
Council of the City of Auburn held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2012 by the  
following vote on roll call:

Ayes:  
Noes:  
Absent:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk

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